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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015

Old fashioned-spirit

Port Colborne's museum serves up a taste of the Christmas holidays from yesteryear
Page 2

Basement becomes Bethlehem

A Niagara church has recreated the Nativity scene — in real life
Page 17

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Mr. Claus docks in Port Colborne



GREG FURNINGER/
POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Santa Claus
meets with children on
the West Street
promenade
after he
arrived
in Port
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UPFRONT

■ PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL AND MARINE MUSEUM

Holiday season ushered in with old-fashioned charm

GREG FURMINGER

Postmedia Network

"It finally feels like Christmas — all the sights, the sounds the smells, the fire, the cider."

Those were the observations of Andrea Boitor Sunday, as her daughter Catharine, and her two friends Luke and Claire Harris, were nearby sipping a warm drink inside a boat at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Heritage Museum.

"It doesn't matter the weather," Boitor said of a notably mild, green December day not far from the Lake Erie shore.

Laura Harris agreed that snow wasn't needed for the museum's Grand Old Christmas Festival.

"You don't have to argue about the snowpants," she quipped. "I said, 'I'm cold, I go home!'"

The two women have regularly been bringing their children to the festival.

So, too, has Tabitha Jones, who recalled visiting the museum grounds as a child just before Christmas.

"It's just like home here. It's part of living in Port Colborne," she said.

With two-month-old Evangelina nestled inside her coat, Jones assisted four-year-old daughter Isla Adelaide in making a candle.

"She loves to make all the different crafts here and bring them home to show Daddy."

Museum director Stephanie Powell-Baswick said it was a bustling day at the King Street

museum, with more than 200 people having filed in to its grounds dotted with old log cabins within the first 20 minutes of the four-hour event.

"I think the weather didn't hurt — and, of course, Christmas in Port Colborne is this weekend."

Also on families' agendas were Sunday's breakfast with Santa's Wellborn Canal tugboat arrival and the nighttime parade.

More than 60 volunteers were assisting with Sunday's affair, Linda Ursacki among them.

"I enjoy talking to so many people," she said with a big smile.

Being involved in Sunday's festival and all it offers "is a big part of Christmas, really this time minus the chilly weather."

"It's warmer than it was back in May for the pie social," Ursacki quipped, referring to the treats then served up by Annabella's Tea Room, which on Sunday was dishing up its locally famous Christmas pudding and caramel sauce.

Sunday's festival also saw people washing down roasted chestnuts with hot apple cider, blacksmiths stamping keepsakes with hot branding irons, a wreath-making station, visits with Santa next to a roaring fire, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Next year will mark the event's 40th anniversary.

ONLINE PHOTOS
InPortNews.ca



Catharine Boitor, 8, and siblings Luke Harris, 8, and Claire, 5, enjoy their hot chocolate after navigating to great sipping spot at the Grand Old Christmas Festival hosted by Port Colborne Historical and Marine Heritage Museum on Sunday.



Above: James van Dillen tends to the roasted chestnuts at the Grand Old Christmas Festival.
Left: Lauren Sibbald and five-year-old daughter Isla participate in the wreath-making craft at the Grand Old Christmas Festival hosted by Port Colborne Historical and Marine Heritage Museum.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ PARADE

The Clauses proceed through mild Port Colborne

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

A gentle December night encouraged thousands of people to line Port Colborne streets for an annual evening Santa Claus parade.

"I haven't seen so many children in years," said Vance Badaway, former Port Colborne mayor and recently elected Liberal member of Parliament for Niagara Cen-

tre. "When I saw the crowd as we turned onto Steele Street, I thought I would run out of candy," he said of his walk along the downtown route.

More than 100 floats joined out the parade, some signing up in the final days as a stretch of mild weather continued.

The parade included high school bands, club and sports floats, business entries, fire

trucks and government floats all highlighted by Mrs. Claus introducing the featured guest, Santa Claus.

The Port Colborne parade is the longest-running nighttime Santa Claus event in the province, previous ones ending in endurance marches in the cold.

Saturday, however, brought cheering children eager to wave to Santa and collect candy during the almost two-hour event.



PHOTOS BY WAYNE CAMPBELL/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK
The Lakeshore High School Gator, pictured here, Blue Bear, Leprechaun, Minion and Sparky the Dog are some of the mascots that marched in the Port Colborne Santa Claus Parade.



Mrs. Claus rides in her own sleigh for the first time in the Port Colborne Santa Claus Parade Saturday night.



Santa rides his sleigh into Port Colborne.

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

Jesus is the light of the world

PASTOR MICHAEL MELEO

Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran Churches, Dunnville and Port Colborne

Christmas is a time of joy and life, of lights on the tree and a big shiny star on top.

Well, that is one popular way of symbolizing who God is and what He has done at Christmas and on the cross for our salvation. By the tree of the Garden of Eden sin came into the world by Satan's deception and Adam's rejection of God's word. By the 'tree' of the cross, that first deed is undone, the devil defeated and life given through Jesus's all-powerful sacrifice. The cross and the star both point our attention to Jesus who is both true God and true man in one person, who Himself is the light of the world.

But what does it mean that Jesus is the light? His birth in Bethlehem and His preaching fulfil Isaiah's prophecy and God's promise: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus Christ, who is Immanuel (which means "God with us"), the Saviour of the world, was born of the virgin, Mary, out there in the darkness of an animal shed — probably a cave-like hole in the wall in the hills. There is light Himself, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). He is the "light to bring rev-

elation to the gentiles" (Luke 2:32), the one who gives the knowledge of salvation to all believers. He bursts into our world to rescue us from the clutches of sin, death and the power of the devil. He comes in and destroys the world's true enemies from the inside out.

In bearing witness of that light, John the Baptist was "called the prophet of the highest; to bear witness before the face of the Lord to prepare His people" (Mark 1:2). He came to give salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:77-79). Jesus is the light of life, the light of forgiveness and the light of knowledge and truth.

And, oh, do we need Him. Since the fall, we live and sin in our sinful bodies in this sinful world, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Because of sin, we are deprived of divine knowledge and our hearts are darkened (Ephesians 4:18). That's why we walk in the darkness of worldliness, as God says: "For where there is no true knowledge of God, there can also be no also no light and God-giving life. Then, the end for us all who 'sit in darkness and the shadow of death' is hell, which is eternal darkness and eternal death, where all unfruitful servants will be thrown (Matthew 22:13).

That's the punishment Jesus tells Nicodemus about.

When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about Baptism and salvation and the Holy Spirit, and about Himself, He said, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practising evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should not be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God" (John 3:18-21).

And there at the end is the change. We are not stuck in our sins with no way out. We are not trapped in the pitch-black dungeon of death with no one to save us. We have a saviour. We have someone much better than any knight in shining armour. We have God who has come down into our flesh to save us. He has come down into our dark dungeon of death between the bars, released us, given us His light, the light of everlasting life, and, to our surprise, bound Himself in our chains. He suffered the punishment we deserve, and died in our place with all our sins upon Him. He has taken our darkness and given us His light by the forgiveness of our sins.

So God caused John to write, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and

declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:5-9).

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). That's who He is. Be in Christ by true sorrow over your sin and by faith in His forgiveness, for as you receive His holy word into your ears and heart, and also His precious body and blood, given and shed for you on the cross, you receive the light, Jesus, knowledge, truth and the forgiveness of your sins. We need Him not just at Christmas, but always.

Here is the manager of His word and saving grace, please receive. He has promised to dwell, the new home of His people, the new Bethlehem, the new manager, here we approach God of God, light of light, very God of very God, and we bow down before Him in reverence and holy joy. Christ the Saviour is born. Our King has come.

Praise the Lord all you people, for Jesus is the only light of your life, now and forevermore.



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Taifun is pictured in Montreal on April 17, 1980, in this Rene Beauchamp photo.

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Shipwrecks – Taifun

Skip Gilham
 For Postmedia Network

The West German freighter *Taifun* was found now when it first came to the Great Lakes in 1970.

The 116.72-metre-long cargo carrier had been constructed at Lubeck and went to work for Hugo Stinnes following completion on Feb. 14, 1970.

This was not a frequent inland caller as the years progressed, but the ship was active around the world, eventually sailing for 32

years and under 10 names. It also carried the flags of Panama, St. Vincent, Singapore, China and Cambodia before it disappeared on Jan. 28, 2002.

The ship was sailing as *Lan Jie* when it was lost. The vessel had loaded 6,300 tonnes of sand at Weihai, China, for delivery to Kashima, Japan, and was last seen leaving port on Jan. 23, 2001. It reported as being off Kochi, Japan, on Jan. 28 but was never heard from again.

The former St. Lawrence Seaway trader simply disappeared and took the lives of 19 sailors.



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■ NIAGARA REGION

Twelve new hires approved for EMS

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Niagara Emergency Medical Services will see 12 new staff members hired next year to help tackle increasing call volumes.

During budget deliberations, regional council approved funding for one additional 24-hour ambulance crew, including eight paramedics, as well as two operations supervisors and two logistical support staff.

The positions will cost Niagara Region \$1.7 million — with half of the funding covered through provincial uploading and assessment

dollars, and the other half paid for through reserves. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will begin funding 50 per cent of the cost of the positions in 2017.

A second 24-hour crew, including an additional eight paramedics, is also scheduled to be added in 2017.

In addition to new hires, council opted to fund call volumes to reach 55,000 by 2021, those numbers have been reached this year, said director of service of health Dr. Bruce Jaeger.

At the same time, there were 1,009 incidents in 2015 when six or less ambulances were available for all of Niagara, she said. Those incidents, she added, happened two to three times a day, though she could

not say for how long.

The service, which is co-funded by the Region and the province, saw a 5.8 per cent increase in calls in 2014, followed by a 6.7 per cent increase between November 2014 and May 2015.

While a 2013 review of the service projected annual call volumes to reach 55,000 by 2021, those numbers have been reached this year, said director of service of health Dr. Bruce Jaeger.

"We're constantly putting money in on a reactionary basis," Timms said, adding he wanted to see planning details before funding any additional positions.

Niagara last added two 24-hour ambulance crews in 2014 to assist with increasing calls.

"We're responding year by year, piece by piece," St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms said. He hoped to see Timms take a more proactive approach to tackling the issue through a comprehensive master plan, a move being considered by Niagara Falls Coun. Bob Gale.

"We're constantly putting money in on a reactionary basis," Timms said, adding he wanted to see planning details before funding any additional positions.

While a master plan is valuable for the future, "it does not alter the current need," Jaeger said. "If a similar plan had been in place over the past 10 years, EMS would likely have more ambulances in its system than it does now," she said.

Regardless of whether additional staff are added, emergency calls will be responded to, Jaeger said. But that may mean longer response times for patients with higher overnight costs to the Region.

Unbudgeted overtime is not matched dollar for dollar by the province, she said.

After a lengthy debate on whether to grant the full EMS request, it was regional Chair

Alan Caslin who offered an alternative.

"I'm trying to find a soft landing for this," he said, asking that a second option offered by the service — including the separate additions next year and in 2017 — instead be considered.

Funding of the 2016 hires was approved in a 19-2 vote. Approval of the master plan was approved in a 12-9 vote. The Region's 2016 budget, including the additional EMS costs, was approved Thursday night with no increase over 2015.

*maryanne.firth@summedia.ca
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Region to hire planning expediter

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Developers will soon have help cutting through red tape.

During recent budget deliberations, Niagara regional council opted to approve \$120,501 in funding to hire an expediter in its planning and development division.

Grimbsy Coun. Tony Quirk brought forth the item for inclusion in the budget, asking that it be funded for two years and then reviewed to determine whether the results warrant making it a permanent position.

It passed in a 17-4 vote.

There will be no extra cost to developers to take advantage of the expedited process, planning and development commissioner Ruth Mostashari said.

"It's just a simple part of the culture we're trying to develop in terms of moving things along to help investors and developers whenever we can."

Staff believe return on investment will come once "you get product in the ground," he said, adding at that point it's on the tax rolls and generating revenue.

Niagara Region also has an expediter working in economic development.

"When we reformed the economic

development department, this council pushed hard for an expediter to make sure that businesses wanting to invest in Niagara would have a voice to help them cut through red tape," Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Maves said.

That position has already yielded "some success," he said, adding he was optimistic about the new role.

Maves wants to see the position help investors through the pre-consultation process through the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the respective municipality come together to tell developers what needs to be done in terms of studies and other requirements needed to move a project forward.

"It's hope that this expediter cuts through that red tape and says just did a traffic study next door. We don't need another one."

If the planning department as a whole develops that "expediter mentality" over the next two years, the position may become redundant, Maves said.

"On the other hand, we may find out over the two years that expediter has been so successful that we'll want to maintain it permanently."

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■ NIAGARA REGION: 28 temporary positions made permanent

Social assistance staffing changes approved

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Twenty-eight temporary workers who help tackle Niagara's heavy Ontario Works caseload will soon have permanent jobs with Niagara Region.

Council approved transitioning the positions, as well as hiring one data analyst, during its regular deliberations last week.

The change comes as the result of a recent third-party review of the social assistance and employment opportunities (SAEO) division.

It was West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner who led the charge to see staffing levels increased in accordance with staff recommendations.

He made the pitch to see five new positions created, including one data analyst, one job developer, two case managers and one supervisor.

Councillors ultimately opted to move forward with only one new hire — the position Joyner felt "imperative" to track changes within the system.

Niagara's OW caseload, which as of July sat at 11,421, has increased 53 per cent since the 2008 recession.

Joyner stressed that keeping the 28 staff members on board is necessary to combat those rising numbers.

Staffing has increased minimally in comparison to the significant increase in cases, he said.

Twenty-five of those 28 positions, which are co-funded by the province, are union-

ized.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees 1287 collective agreement requires that after two years, which each of the 28 has passed, temporary positions are to be made permanent or deleted.

The union did not support a further extension of the temporary roles, which prompted council to move forward with the staffing review last summer.

The 28 temporary positions had previously been funded through reserves. Making the role permanent means a levy impact of \$952,363 in the 2016 budget.

The 2016 regional budget was approved Thursday night with no increase to taxpay-

ers. Even with inclusion of the 28 permanent workers, Niagara's social assistance division still remains the "leanest" Ontario division, Joyner said.

"Niagara would actually need to add 100 full-time employees over and above the 28 yet to support improved case management and make a meaningful impact in growing caseloads," he told his fellow councillors.

While the division is efficiently run with the resources it has, "there is a cost to being one of the leanest Ontario Works data agents," he said.

During the review process, consultation took place with community partners and clients, who indicated inappropriate referrals were sometimes made or not done in a timely manner.

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■ CLIMATE: A green Christmas may be on the horizon

Forecast signs point to warmer winter

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

If you've been dreaming of a green Christmas, the forecast may be singing your tune.

In its seasonal prediction, The Weather Network says a reliably mild December so far seems to be the legs of a December that's getting a break after a couple of hard winters.

"It's going to be tough to have a white Christmas this year," said Dayna Vettese, a meteorologist for the network, last week. "It's going to be very mild for the next couple of weeks."

"We'll come to the end of December and be saying 'will winter ever come?'" Vettese said. "It's certainly going to be a very mild month ... for people who still have to put up the Christmas lights or have lots of shopping to do, the weather will be in your favour."

By January, a more typical winter pattern is expected for these parts, with typical cold and some cold patches.

"But we're not expecting the frigid, deep-freezes of the last two winters," Vettese said.

The network's chief meteorologist, Chris Scott, has also said El Nino strengthens, it will bring above normal temperatures to southern Canada in the early winter.

But Scott cautions that the unique characteristics of El Nino mean a "potential for more sustained winter conditions" in Central and Eastern Canada in the second

half of the season.

The Weather Network says Canada's warmest temperatures relative to normal will be found from British Columbia to northern Ontario, while southern Ontario to Atlantic Canada should see temperatures average out closer to normal.

Milder temperatures generally mean most storms should bring a variety of precipitation types, resulting in less snowfall compared to last winter.

Environment Canada senior climatologist Dave Phillips said pretty much all models are showing an El Nino-driven, milder-than-normal winter.

"Book your tee-times, and not times to see your skis," he said, referring to the mild weather "dress rehearsal" this week for the way the rest of the season is likely to play out.

"Everyone is going to be either all right about this or all wrong," added Phillips. "Europeans, the Americans, private weather services, the government services are all saying the same thing — a super-El Nino cometh and it will be milder than normal."

He said what makes the forecast more reliable is the stability of this kind of El Nino that produces especially warm waters in the tropical Pacific, with consistent weather patterns that result.

"It has a lot of memory and lingering effects — the atmosphere doesn't change overnight," Phillips said.

LAST YEAR'S FORECAST BOO-BOO

Environment Canada didn't get it quite right in its last winter forecast, as it predicted a near-normal winter.

"We were wrong, really because of February," said senior climatologist Doug Phillips. "December was actually warmer than normal ... and then winter broke out in January and never stopped."

Phillips said a predicted weak El Nino

moderating effect for that winter never materialized.

"Last year, it didn't get going, there wasn't a coupling between the oceans and the atmosphere," he said.

"We ended up with a lot of polar air," he said, adding Eastern Canada was one of the only areas in the world that experienced that colder-than-normal icebox.



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City of Port Colborne 2016 Dog Licences are now available for purchase and are due March 15th.

The following discounted rates apply for licences purchased on or before March 15th:

- Un-Neutered/Un-Spayed Dogs \$25.00
- Neutered/Spayed Dogs (proof required) \$15.00

After March 15th the regular rates of \$35.00 and \$25.00 apply.

Tags may be purchased at:

- City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street
- The Port Colborne Animal Shelter, 1080 Elm Street
- Pet Valu, Westside Place Plaza, Westside Road

Dog owners who fail to purchase a dog licence before the due date are liable for a set fine under Part 1 Provincial Offences Act.

But he wouldn't predict a green Christmas in Niagara, noting daily weather can be unpredictable, even during a long-term seasonal trend.

"You could have the snowiest Christmas on record, but it doesn't mean the milder winter (forecast) would be a mis-take," he said.

"And we're not canceling winter; we're just saying the feel and look of it will be

less winter-like," said Phillips, noting that's especially so compared to the last two winters.

"Most people in Eastern Canada still have memories of two of the toughest back-to-back winters," he said. "And I think we already know about the front-end of this winter so far ... we've just come through a very warm fall."

— with files from Canadian Press



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LOCAL NEWS

PETS: Found in Short Hills, the Amazing Maizy soon to be adopted

Starved dog making full recovery

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

An emaciated black Lab mix found in Short Hills Provincial Park is making a full recovery.

The dog that was found at the end of October snagged on a fence and starving has since been named the Amazing Maizy.

When John Abbott, the man who rescued Maizy, brought her to Welland Animal Hospital she weighed about 26 pounds. She now weighs about 52 lbs., but needs to gain a few more to be at a healthy weight.

Welland Animal Hospital Dr. Jeff Fidler has been treating Maizy.

After a medical examination, hospital staff concluded Maizy was younger than they

initially thought. There was a lot a tartar buildup on her teeth, but that was from a poor diet, not age.

Chris Fidler, a veterinarian technician and wife of Jeff, said no one has stepped forward to claim Maizy.

"Now that we know her personality better, my guess is that this dog did not escape, this dog was not wandering Short Hills for five weeks waiting to die ... that park, at that time of year, is so used and it's so small, it's surrounded by houses and people with families and pets," she said.

"There's no way she was in that park for more than a few days, so she was dumped in that park in that condition."

The Fidlers decided to foster Maizy and have since taken



her home. Chris said once Maizy was feeling a bit better there was no reason for her to stay at the hospital.

"The hospital isn't always the best place to leave a non-

sick dog ... just like people. The best place to catch something bad is in a hospital," she said.

The Fidlers feel it makes sense for Maizy to stay with them until she is healthy enough to be adopted.

Another reason Maizy couldn't be adopted right away was because her personality was unknown. Chris said Maizy could have been aggressive, really hyper, or a variety of other personality traits.

Chris said it is now known that Maizy is good with children and other animals. She is strong, energetic and needs exercise.

Chris said Maizy has met with a prospective family that may be able to adopt the dog this week.

For updates about Maizy visit the Amazing Maizy Facebook page.

CORRECTION

Construction of Underground Transmission Line Infrastructure Notice
for the Niagara Region Wind Project, PWAVI LP

Project Name Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")
Project Location Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Whitchurch and the Town of Uxbridge in the Niagara Region and Haltonland County in Southern Ontario

Notice Dated At Haltonland County and Niagara Region, the 3rd of December 2013.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now PWAVI LP (the "Proposed"), are exploring a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2013.

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Whitchurch and the Town of Uxbridge in the Niagara Region and Haltonland County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, surface access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Construction of Underground Transmission Line Infrastructure

Information: Construction of underground transmission line infrastructure is expected to begin in December 1, 2013, on the following roads, dimensions and activities:

- Creek Road (Regional Road 40);
- Caribbean Road (Regional Road 62);
- Port Davidson Road;
- South Grimsby Road S;
- Walker Road; and
- Mountainview Road.

Activities include utility shifting and removal, trench excavation, concrete installations, concrete placement, vault installation, backfill, and compaction and road remediation. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical report dated on the Project website: www.pwavi.ca. Construction activities are required to be low apprehension & minimal.

Please note that public services (i.e., mail delivery, perhaps pick up, school buses, etc.) may be disrupted during this time.

If you have any observations in the right-of-way near your property (e.g. fences, private property, gardens, trees, electrical lines), please contact Shikha Arora (Contact Information below).

Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
Sales Manager	General Number: 905-305-6493
Email: shikha.arora@pwavi.ca	Toll-Free: 1-844-303-4991
Cell: 289-800-0001	Project Website: www.pwavi.ca

■ IMMIGRATION

Refugees expected to arrive in Niagara soon

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

Syrian refugees will likely start arriving in Niagara early in the new year, says the executive director of the Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Centre.

Last Thursday, Jeff Burch said Hamilton is one of six Ontario cities designed by the federal government as refugee reception sites.

However, because Hamilton could be accepting more than 1,200 refugees, the city's resources will be strained.

Niagara, Burch said, is in a position to ease the pressure.

"We've already been talking to our counterparts in Hamilton to co-ordinate closely with them," said Burch.

The Niagara Refugee Assistance Committee, which includes the Folks Arts centre, local faith groups, the YMCA, along with other agencies and governments, has been working to identify and mobilize local resources to assist refugees.

Burch said there are already more than 20 refugees there, being sponsored privately in the Niagara area.

Around another 150 could arrive in the region in January and February. They will likely arrive in Hamilton first, and then be settled in the Niagara area, he said.

Burch said donations of furniture have been so strong, that the assistance committee is focusing on gathering cash donations and new housing leads. They are also looking for volunteers to assist the settlement effort.

People looking for more information can go to www.folkarts.ca or e-mail to generalenquiries@folkarts.ca. Donations can be made by going to gofundme/syriarefugees.

The assistance committee is also using the social media hashtag #NiagaraWelcomesRefugees.

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Holiday gift ideas with taste

TIFFANY MAYER

Special To Postmedia Network

The weather outside is far from frigid, in fact, it's
far from festive.

While I'd like to give that El Niño a big high five for these mild temperatures, it has made me forget the holidays are coming. I can't imagine I'm the only one thinking the big day — whatever it is for each of us this season — is a long way off.

So to keep us all on track and remind us the days are melting faster than a snowflake in this eternal fall weather, I give you the 2015 edition of the Eating Niagara gift list for gastronomes, foodies, beer, wine and celiacs (and, with it, my wish for a new word to describe us all that doesn't sound as silly as those above).

For the hands-on hedonist

Two Niagara gastronomes published cookbooks worthy of placement next to that spattered Joy of Cooking on your counter.

Go on a global food tour from the comfort of your stove with *Curbside: Modern Street Food from a Vagabond Chef*, Adam Hynam-Smith, proprietor of Niagara's internationally-inspired El GastroNomo Vagabundo food truck. \$32.95 at major bookstores.

St. Catharines-based food writer Tara O'Brady provides a feast for the eyes and several for the table with *Seven Spoons: My Favorite Recipes for Any and Every Day*, named after her enduring food blog. \$29.95 at major bookstores.

For the community-minded connoisseur

Food brings people together to share in a common goal. Usually, that's filling rumbling bellies. Gifting a membership to the Niagara Local Food Co-op or the Garden City Food Co-op taps into food's power of quieting the rumble while building community.

The Niagara Local Food Co-op is an online market supporting local farmers and entrepreneurs by featuring Niagara produce, prepared foods and other food products. Memberships are \$50 at niagaralocalfood.coop.ca.

The Garden City Food Co-op is a downtown St. Catharines' grocery store-in-waiting. The more memberships sold, the sooner it will open, converting a food desert into fertile food turf. Sign up a loved one for \$120 at gardencityfood.coop.ca.

For the experimental epicurean

Become a high-flyer by chartering a helicopter to which hand-to-buy-for foodies over the vineyards of Niagara-on-the-Lake and land among the vines, so they can enjoy a wine tasting. Niagara Helicopters can make it happen. \$994.40 for up to seven people (niagarahelicopters.com).

For those who prefer to keep their feet firmly planted on the ground, a gift certificate for a guided walking tour that hits all the sweet and savoury spots in the Old Town, Niagara Falls or St. Catharines is a good bet. \$55,

Niagara Culinary Tours (niagaraculinarytours.com).

For the discerning dilettante

Sip coffee or eat dinner from vessels with character. Shed Pottery's Johann Munro will have you finally bidding adieu to your mother's melamine for hand-built and wheel-thrown dinner plates, bowls and coffee mugs. Prices vary. 1139 Rd. St. Catharines (shedpotterybyjohann.com).

Charcuterie and carpentry fans will feel grateful unwrapping a Naked Grain cutting board, made of cherry, walnut and maple by St. Catharines carpenter Kim Gillard. No two charcuterie boards, suitable for cutting or serving, are the same. Available online for \$65 and \$95 at provisionsfoodcompany.com.

The rest of the herd might warm up by wrapping up in a mass-produced blanket, but the Linc Farm at Southbrook Vineyards has something unique to throw your way: blankets of wool from the sheep who call the winery home. The plain or plaid throws are made by MacAusland's Woolen Mills in P.E.I. Sheep and lambskins are also available. Prices vary. 581 Niagara Stone Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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A visit with chefs of kitchens future

Dinner is always an option. But a dinner made by Junior Culinary Team Canada and junior Culinary Team USA is more than that. It's an event. These young chefs will serve six courses matched with beer, wine and live music at Niagara College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute on Jan. 9. The tickets will fit easily into a stocking, though those attending might not fit into much more than elastic-waist pants afterward. \$99 per person (canadianfoodandwineinstitute.ca/events).

The sweetest gift of all

That would be chocolate. And Rebecca Nigh at Nigh's Sweet Shop in Stevensville will have everything needed to keep any sweet tooth happy these holidays: handmade bonbons, chocolate bars, and novelties in just about any shape, size and flavour. It's a gift just setting foot in this store. Prices vary. 3757 Netherby Rd., Stevensville.

Tiffany Mayer is the author of *Niagara Food: A Flavoured History of the Peninsula's Bounty (The History Press)*. She also blogs about food and farming at eatingniagara.com. You can reach her at eatingniagara@gmail.com or on Twitter @eatingniagara.

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■ DONATION: \$500,000 gift

BMO bucks for university business building

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

A project to build a major expansion to Brock University's business school got another boost.

The BMO Financial Group has donated \$500,000 to help complete the Goodman School of Business in a renewal project to begin next year.

In a news release, Brock said the BMO money is specifically earmarked for the "state-of-the-art BMO Financial Group Lecture Hall."

The \$22-million project will expand the Goodman School from its current 50,526 square feet to 76,758 sq. ft.

Among the work to be done is a modernizing of Goodman's current facilities in Taro Hall, and increase the number of classrooms by 10 per cent. It will also add interview rooms, a dean's suite and a large atrium to a school that is desperately in need of new space.

Last spring, the province committed \$10 million to the Goodman School project, and a big part of its capital costs will be covered by a gift from the family of businessman Ned Goodman, who was Brock's former chancellor.

Barry Wright, interim dean of the Goodman School, said about \$18 million has been raised so far in the project.

Increasing Taro Hall to this extent will be a boon to students and faculty, Wright said.

"We've been growing in leaps and bounds at the Goodman School," he said. "And this will give us the opportunity to be more in-house with everything."

"So we're very excited about it." Construction should begin by the summer of 2016, with completion expected sometime in 2018.

The Goodman School of Business has 2,890 undergraduate and 519 graduate students.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ NATIVITY: Live babies featured in the manger



JOHN LAW / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A guitarist performs at Redeemer Bible Church's A Night at Bethlehem, held this weekend. It returns next Saturday and Sunday.

Church basement becomes Bethlehem

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

A nativity scene is one thing, but recreating all of Bethlehem takes some holiday gumption.

For the second straight year, Redeemer Bible Church on Montrose Road has turned its basement gym into a re-enactment of the very first Christmas. About 400 people attended the opening for A Night in Bethlehem on Saturday, and hundreds more poured in on Sunday.

In the basement, visitors were met with shepherds, live animals, merchants and — as a bonus — an actual baby tucked into a manger.

Event director Janet McLeod said a doll had to be used last year. This year, two church members gave had babies just in time to be part of the show.

"We have a three-month-old this weekend and a two-month-old next weekend," she said. "It was a lot of prayer."

The free event utilizes about 100 volunteers in costume and features live music and celebratory dancing. And with nary a wrapped present or stocking in sight, McLeod said it's a reminder of how the holiday started. Several visitors found it a nice break, she said.

"Many come with their children and

grandchildren. They really want (them) to experience that."

"More and more today, with the busyness and, 'Give me, give me, give me' — for some, it's a first-time experience of being able to see what Bethlehem was like. Outside of Santa, Christmas with Jesus."

"It's a chance now for people to take a step back from the busyness of Christmas and reflect on that first Christmas night, the quietness of it, and what his birth really means to us."

Several of the priests and costumers were dressed as living re-enactors made real crafts and food while talking to visitors. Outside, kids could take a hay ride.

McLeod, the church's director of worship and creative arts, calls the event "purposeful." In its intent to show that Christmas started with Christ.

"We don't shave it down anybody's throat, we don't slap their hands for any other celebration they might have, but it's a chance for us... to say, 'Here's what Christmas is all about.'

A Night in Bethlehem continues Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The church is at 3017 Montrose Rd. Donations for Project SHARE are accepted.

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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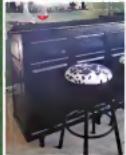
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FILM



Supplied photo

Niagara's Rachel Sellan stars in the new Canadian-made horror flick *The Sublet*.

Scares keep coming for Niagara actress Sellan

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

Tempting as it is, Rachel Sellan doesn't want to be known just as a "scream queen."

As fun as it is, her characters don't usually make it to the end.

"I'd love to one day be the killer, maybe turn the tables around," she says on break from her bartending job in Toronto. "I want more out of not just horror movies. I want to get in-depth into a character, I want to break down in a film. I want to do more emotionally driven characters, but you've got to start somewhere."

"But I don't see me as just a scream queen. I want to be like the Rachel Adams that comes out in every different hair colour and still rocks it."

Sellans' new thriller *The Sublet* points in the right direction. For her largest role to date, she stars as the sultry ex-girlfriend of an actor who recently married and had a child. After the couple rents a sublet apartment, the building's mysterious past starts messing with their minds.

"She starts to drive herself pretty much crazy, and it all starts with other people in their lives," says Sellan. "I'm one of them. I come in and start to screw everything up. The whole movie then takes a turn for the worst."

Directed by John Ainslie, the Canadian-made movie has earned good early buzz, with website Geek Chic Elite calling it "a beautifully disturbing film."

"I'm in it throughout the movie, even little flashbacks," says Sellan. "I'm like 'Yay!' That's better than just one scene."

The movie made its recent Canadian debut at the Whistler Film Fest in British Columbia.

Scare flicks are nothing new for Sellan. After appearing briefly in the TV series

Ghostly Encounters in 2010, she made her movie debut as an early victim in *Silent Hill: Revelation*. In addition to *The Sublet*, she stars in the upcoming *The Ghost is a Lie*, about a group of diverse filmmakers sent out into the woods to make a found-footage ghost story. Returning to camp after filming their first scene, they discover more of the town's dark history.

"A lot of actors stay out in the horror movies," she says. "They're always room for horror movies, there's always room for horror movies — terrible ones, good ones. But I know I'm going to start getting offers where I survive the movie. I feel like it's coming."

"I did an episode on *The Listener* and I played the hot girl at the bar, and I didn't die. It felt like a step up."

Sellans attended L'ecole Secondaire Catholique Jean-Vanier in Welland, winning a provincial volleyball championship during her senior year in 2008. Acting was her biggest love, however, and she soon signed with New York model and talent management MMG. In addition to magazine spreads she appeared in online campaigns for Heineken and Toronto's Bed Hot Condos, along with Tim Chaisson's video for *Broken Hearted Beat*.

Living in Toronto, she sees many of the same faces auditing for movie roles. She has developed a thick skin for rejections, knowing the right role will arrive at the right time.

"I had a goal (five years ago) that I'd be a lot further, doing a lot more, but I can't complain because I've still come a long way," she says.

"I never take any of it too personally, because I know there's a look they're looking for, and they know as soon as you walk in."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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■ MUSIC

Ryan Swayze explores creative freedom in Far From Normal Vol. 2

GREG FURNIGER

Postmedia Network

The 2010 Niagara Music Award winner released a new album online, one that he says is more art than song.

"To me, this is a music experiment I've taken away from mainstream pop," says 26-year old Wellandian Ryan Swayze.

"I wanted to write something that was more just 'Hey baby, hey baby, hey.'

Swayze calls *Far From Normal* Vol. 2 — he's working on Volume 3 — "more of an art project" than a traditional album.

It became available as a free download last week on Apple Music and through his website.

Swayze says he spent the past two years working on the 12-track compilation, done so using electronic material from iTunes and Beats and with assistance from producers found via SoundCloud. It includes '90s hip-hop influences with dub step thrown in



GREG FURNIGER/
POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Welland's Ryan Swayze has released a new album, *Far From Normal* Vol. 2, that can be downloaded for free at AppleMusic.com

on other tracks.

Far From Normal Vol. 2 is a "step aside from the mainstream" and is inspired by Swayze's views of the lives of people around him.

One track, called *Up in Smoke*, is about marijuana use.

Another is called *Missing You*, about a friend's breakup with his girlfriend.

Swayze, does, through indulge himself in one track, called *Valentine*, written about his best-ever Feb. 14th.

"I wanted to do something truthful and honest to me,"

says Swayze.

The song, he says, allowed him to tell his story of being a gay man in love.

It's something he says he can do as an independent art-

RYAN SWAYZE ONLINE

RyanSwayzeMusic.com

Twitter: @ryanswayze

Facebook.com/RyanSwayzeMusic

ist, adding he had been told in the past by music industry officials to downplay his sexual orientation.

"I would be more happy making my own music the rest of my life with no one telling me how to do it," Swayze says.

To me it would be awesome to make music for a living. But it's obvious it's tough, especially as an independent artist."

Although *Far From Normal* Vol. 2 is only available for download, Swayze says he plans to have disc copies available early in the year.

greg.furniger@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib

Construction of Overhead Transmission Line Infrastructure Notice For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN LP

Project Name: Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")

Project Location: Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario

Notice Dated At: Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 2nd of November 2015.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), are engaging in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformers, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Construction of Overhead Transmission Line Infrastructure

Installation of overhead transmission line infrastructure is expected to begin on December 7, 2015, on the following roads:

- Walker Road;
- Fly River/Mud Street;
- Third Street;
- Young Street;
- South Grimby Road 5;
- West Street/Hay 20;
- South Grimby Road 6;
- Smithville Townline Road;
- 10th Street;
- Sixteen Road;
- Port Davidson Road;
- Camberrough Road;
- Creek Road;
- Side Road 42;
- Concession Road 6;
- Shaffley Road;
- Hay 3; and
- Wainfleet-Dunnville Townline Road.

Activities will include soil excavation, foundation framing, concrete pouring, transmission pole erection, and cable stringing. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical reports found on the Project website: www.mrwf.ca. Construction activities are expected to last approximately 7 months.

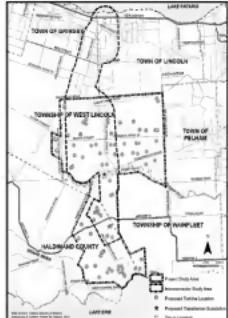
Please note that public services (i.e. mail delivery, garbage pick-up, school buses, etc.) may be disrupted during this time.

If you have any obstructions in the right-of-way near your property (e.g. fences, private gas lines, gardens, trees, electrical lines), please contact Shiloh Beriman (contact information below).

Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

NIAGARA REGION WIND PROJECT CONTACT	GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
Shiloh Beriman Email: shiloh.beriman@enercon.ca Cell: 289-683-2563	General Number: 819-363-6491 Toll Free: 1-844-363-6491 Project email: info@mrfw.ca Project website: www.mrwf.ca



■ MUSIC: Jazz singer performing in Welland



STEVE WEBSTER / SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Singer Emilie Claire-Barlow brings her jazzy jukebox to Dr. J.M. Ennis Auditorium at Centennial Secondary School in Welland this Saturday.

Emilie-Claire Barlow's clear eyes, full heart

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

When she performs them live in Welland Saturday, Emilie-Claire Barlow's new music might sound chirpy and upbeat, especially bundled with Christmas tunes.

But writing them was less than jolly.

Clear Day, the Toronto jazz singer's 11th album, is a product of heartbreak and upheaval. With her marriage coming to an end, Barlow suffered her pain and uncertainty into a new batch of songs with titles such as *I Don't Know Where I Stand and Underneath*.

"The album is really made from a point of view from a girl Barlow, who plays the Dr. J.M. Ennis Auditorium at Welland Centennial Secondary School. I was reflecting on the previous four years. I had been through some real personal challenges — the breakdown of a relationship and the carnage that leaves behind."

"But then there is a lot of joy as well. The excitement of the unknown, and the discovery of new places. It's a bit of an emotional roller-coaster on this album, which I lived."

The wide-spectrum required a big sound, which is why Barlow brought in the 70-piece Metropole Orkest to record it. It gives her reinterpretation of songs by Coleplay and Pat Metheny an edge.

It's not just blues singers who benefit from pain, Barlow said. Every artist can use it to push themselves.

"It doesn't matter what genre of music," she said. "Real life experiences — experiences that make you grow and evolve as a person are always going to lead to a more complete musical expression."

"As you live more life and go through more trying experiences — and joyful

WHO: Emilie-Claire Barlow
WHERE: Dr. J.M. Ennis Auditorium, 240 Thorold Rd. W., Welland
WHEN: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
TICKETS: \$26. Phone 905-788-1648

experiences as well — it only brings a deeper element to the music."

The daughter of jazz drummer Brian Barlow and studio singer Judy Tate, the young Barlow battled stage fright while giving musical theatre a whirl. In Grade 12 she put together her own jazz quartet just as Holly Cole hit the scene.

Her course was set.

"She was a big influence for me in high school," she said. "She and her trio — Aaron Davis and David Pitch — they had a really cool thing going on, something nobody else was doing."

"That was really a jumping-off point for me in high school, listening to her and appreciating what she was doing with the music."

More than anything, Barlow took after Cole's ability to bend the Great American Songbook to her whims. Jazz purists sniped, but she saw an exciting way to sing old, and some new, songs.

Her hunch was right.

"*Vanity Fair* just did a piece on up-and-coming young jazz musicians," she said. "People who are really doing interesting things. Gretchen Parlato, Robert Glasper ... there's a really exciting crop of new jazz musicians, and this crop is really starting to bend the songbook into a certain type of music."

"The jazz purist thing I feel is disappearing. I feel people are more open to genre-crossing types of music."

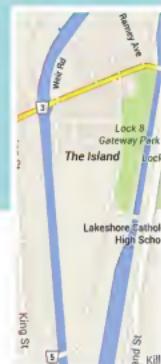
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■ MUSIC



SUBMITTED PHOTO

After a long run at Brock University, Classic Albums Live heads to the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre with Led Zeppelin I on Dec. 10, followed by Pink Floyd's The Wall Feb. 4.

Classic Albums Live bring the riffs to new home

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

Since it formed 12 years ago, Toronto-based Classic

Albums Live has been a Niagara mainstay.

As founder Craig Martin recalls, Brock University's Centre for the Arts was one of the first to get what he was doing: Great records performed in their entirety, note for note. Not a cheesy tribute act.

"It was (centre for the arts director) Deb Slade who took a chance on us," he says. "Her insight into the way that series could endure in a venue like this ... she was pivotal in opening up a lot of doors for us."

Another door opens Dec. 10 when the company plays Led Zeppelin's first album at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, then returns this winter for Pink Floyd's *The Wall* Feb. 4. The 781-seat Partridge Hall may seem an unlikely place to get dazed and confused, but Martin knew early on theatres — not noisy bars — were the best places to make fans want to hear his shows.

"I have to thank my agent for that," he says. "My agent was actually the drummer on the first few shows we did ... he said 'I really see this show in theatres.' I didn't understand what theatres were, I came from a club background. We ended up doing our first theatre show in Windsor and I was like, 'Oh, OK, I get it. This is where the album belonged.'

He remembers saying, "I just want to play shows like this for the rest of my life."

Classic Albums Live was a staple at Brock University for 12 years, and now starts a new tradition at the professional arts centre.

The company's repertoire includes dozens of legendary albums, from Bruce Springsteen's *Born to Run* to Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* to Prince's *Purple Rain*. A huge part of the appeal, Martin explains, is the straightforward nature of what they do: The complete album, without needless fills.

"It's like the old Holiday Inn advertisement — there's no surprises. I know that sounds so un-rock and roll, but it's true. (People) want to get back to musical purity, and these works are really important works."

"We look at ourselves as curators. We're going to take care of this music. They know we care about the music as much as they do. We don't impact any of our personality on it."

It's also a throwback to an era when albums were complete works of art, and not a collection of downloadable singles.

"We also take you back to a time when you had the time to listen to an entire album."

So what is the criteria? While some recent albums have made their mark on pop culture — most notably Adele's *25* — Martin says great albums need time to gestate. An album's legacy isn't always measured in how many millions it sold.

"We'll see if the album ends up being a classic," he says, "but that Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks and a lot of those boy bands also sold (millions) of records, but the album doesn't really endure. But *Sgt. Pepper*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Exile on Main Street* ... these are works that have survived."

"So in 20 years will we do the Adele album? I'd be surprised if we can see us doing the Amy Winehouse album (*Back to Black*). Or the Green Day *American Idiot* album. But right now we're staying with the tried and true."

WHO: Classic Albums live

WHAT: Led Zeppelin

WHERE: Partridge Hall – FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines

WHEN: Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS: PAC members \$41.65, regular \$49, www.firstontariopac.ca

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Project Name: Niagara Region Wind Farm

Renewable Energy Approval: #435-GINYJR

IESO Reference Number: F-00158G-WIN-130-601

Project Description: The Niagara Region Wind Farm (the "Project") is located within the Township of Niagara and Haldimand-Norfolk (including the Townships of Wainfleet, West Lincoln and the Town of Lincoln). The electrical interconnection components are located within the Town of Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln, in Niagara Region, and in Haldimand County in southern Ontario.

Dated At: Haldimand County and Niagara Region on this 9th day of December, 2015.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation ("NRWC") was issued a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) on November 6, 2014 in respect of the Niagara Region Wind Farm project (the "Project"). Information with respect to the decision on this project can be viewed on the Environmental Registry by searching EBR #012-0614. An amendment to the existing approval for an administrative change to the Project was issued by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) on November 23, 2015, to acknowledge the change in ownership of the Project from "Niagara Region Wind Corporation" to PWNN LP, as PWNN LP purchased the Project.

PWNN LP is proposing to make changes to the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act of Ontario (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 339/09 (Regulation). In accordance with section 16.0.1 of the Regulation this notice is being distributed to make the public aware of proposed changes to the project.

Project Description and Proposed Change

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which the REA was issued, is considered to be a Class 4 Wind Facility. An application has been made to the MOECC to change the project and alter the footprint and connection of the existing REA. The proposed changes consist of both technical and project design changes to the REA Application and include:

1. Expansion of the footprint for the Interconnect Station on Mountainview Road to accommodate additional equipment in respect of Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONU) connection requirements;
2. Additional permanent alternative access roads from T11 to T12 and from T11 to T41;
3. Adjustment of the footprint for the North Substation (north of the Welland River) to accommodate reorientation of the substation;
4. Incorporation of additional operational flexibility to install junction boxes within either the municipal right-of-way, as proposed and approved by the municipality, or on private land previously assessed areas along the proposed collector line routes;
5. Modification of 11 of the Project's 80 potential turbines to a customized ENERCON E101 (2.9MW) turbine on 324 meter towers;
6. Denting of the transformer selected for the north substation to 90 MVA as a base rating, and 69 MVA for the south substation; and
7. Adjustment to access road entrances, on private land owned by participating landowners.

Documents for Public Inspection

PWNN LP has developed a Modification Document which summarizes the proposed changes. A written copy of the Modification Document is available for inspection at the FirstOntario website (<http://www.nrvfc.ca/projectdocuments/>). Copies of the final REA documents also remain available on the project website.

Project Contacts and Information

To learn more about the project, or to communicate questions or comments, please contact:

Project Email Address: info@nrvfc.ca

Project Website: www.nrvfc.ca

Project Phone Number: 1-833-6491 or 1-844-363-6491 (toll free)

Shahla Benmerah, Project Coordinator
Shahla Benmerah Consulting Ltd.
4672 Berlitz Road South
Brampton, ON L6R 1B1



Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This information will be used to assist NRWC in meeting applicable environmental approvals requirements. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Unless indicated otherwise, personal information and all comments will become part of the public record and publicly released as part of project documentation.



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■ MUSIC

Steven Tyler brings country show to Fallsview in March

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler will walk this way to Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort in March.

The legendary rocker-

turned-country singer will bring new country collective Loving Mary, whose lineup includes Suzie McNeil, for a pair of dates at the Avalon Ballroom March 29 and 31. Tickets start at \$125.

Following Aerosmith's 2014

Tyler announced earlier this year he was making his first country album. The album has yet to be released, but the first single — *Love Is Your Name* — came out in May.

In addition to his new work,

Tyler and the band will perform new versions of Aerosmith classics such as *Dream On* and *I Wanna Get A Gun*.

Also returning in March for an extended run are illusionists Kevin & Caruso, bringing their show Magique to the

Avalon Ballroom March 10 to 19.

Former Eagles guitarist Don Felder makes his annual visit March 3 to 5 with An Evening at the Hotel California, while Asian star Hacken Lee performs March 20 and 21.

The Songwriters' Series March 19 will feature Don Wiseman, Tim Nichols and Bob Dipiero.

Tickets for all March shows go on sale noon Friday (Dec. 4) at the Fallsview box office and www.ticketmaster.ca.

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■ ART SHOW

Artists share visual dialogue in UnSend

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

The contradiction bothered artist Ivana Blanco Gross for years. Despite technology making it easy, it seemed artists were communicating with each other less and less.

No dialogue. No discussions. No movement.

"I can't sit down (with another artist) and discuss, 'What are you thinking?' and 'Why your work moved from A to B in five years,'" says the Argentine-born conceptual artist and photographer.

"We're isolated. We only have social media, and it's not the same."

While working a show in

Spain, she had a "misunderstanding" with another artist who went to the beach while she stayed indoors working at a studio. She flippantly said "send me a postcard," which he did. And kept on doing. It started a "silly correspondence" with him by mail, and earlier this year an idea struck her: What if a large stable of artists started communicating the same way? By adding to each other's postcard-sized work?

She devised a system where everyone's work was even and equally displayed. An artist would send a piece to another artist, who would finish or change it in their own unique way. No boundaries or hor-

ders, just a visual dialogue between artists.

Called UnSend, the first show was held in May near Spain with 350 works. Gross had "no idea what the public would think."

Observing the crowd, she saw different sections gravitate to different areas of the patchwork. Then they would inevitably pull out their phones to take pictures.

"There can always find one thing that you connect to," she says. "This is our private dialogue as artists. You can't buy it, but you can share in it."

The show has since grown to 1,500 pieces, from 72 different artists in 38 countries. It opens at Niagara Artists Cen-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The UnSend exhibition earlier this year in Massachusetts. It opens at the Niagara Artists Centre Dec. 11.

tre on Friday.

As it grows, Gross has to keep its message on point: This is not a political or religious show. Artists aren't chosen because of their views or agendas.

"I don't care who you are,"

she says. "I only care that you consider yourself an artist."

Each show is arranged on the wall in cloud-like formations, and arranged differently from the previous show.

"It's more organic, with the idea it would resemble the

WHAT: UnSend Niagara
WHERE: Niagara Artists Centre, 354 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines

WHEN: Friday opening, 7 p.m.

iCloud," she says, "because we have created a virtual dialogue with all these people."

"The show is set up completely random," she adds. "A patchwork ends up being formed. Every exhibition is a different type of show. It's never the same, because there's no way to organize it in the same arrangement."

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■ THEATRE



Aidan Tye, left, as Peter rehearses a scene with Gray Powell (Captain Hook) for Yellow Door Theatre Project's new production of Peter Pan. It opens Dec. 15 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

PAC hooks a new Peter Pan

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Director Molly Atkinson knows the trend by now.

First, kids are thrilled to get cast in the show. Then they panic about all the work. Then they pull it together in time for opening night. Since it's always different for Peter Pan, opening Tuesday, Dec. 15, at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre,

"I love watching them grab onto a challenge and get through it," she says. "There's these rough patches where they go, 'This is too hard,' and you sort of say, 'You can do it, I believe in you,' just break it down step by step." Three weeks later, all of a sudden they're doing it."

Kids and Atkinson seem to gravitate to each other. Two years ago she directed *Oliver!* for Linus Hand Productions in Niagara Falls, returning last year for *The Wizard of Oz*. Both shows had a huge ensemble of students from Hand's acting academy.

For *Peter Pan*, the first show by new Niagara company Yellow Door Theatre Project, the young cast had to first audition and earn their way into the show. Once in, they found themselves working with Shaw Festival performers Jacqueline Thair and Gray Powell, who is also Atkinson's husband.

Powell will play Captain Hook, while Thair stars as Mary Darling.

The show will also bring back Niagara actress Jenna Warriner, who recently starred in the one-woman show *Girl's* End In Toronto.

Children in the cast include Aidan Tye as Peter, Morgan Hilliker as Wendy, Jordan Hilliker as John, Holden Power as Michael and Peter Fratangelo as Tootles.

This isn't the Disney *Peter Pan*, and not

WHAT: Peter Pan
WHERE: FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines
WHEN: Dec. 15 to 20
TICKETS: \$29 www.firstontariopac.ca

quite the J.M. Barrie original, says Atkinson. It's a new version by Canadian composer Robert Ursan, which debuted earlier this year at Regina's Do It With Class Young People's Theatre, from where Yelloh! Young artistic director Andorille Hill spent time.

Among the differences in this version? Kids won't have to deal with the apparent death of Tinkerbell.

"In the original script, you have to get the audience to clap to say they still believe in fairies so that Tinkerbell doesn't die," says Atkinson. "In this version, Tinkerbell is a great friend of Peter, but she's a real sofie faerie."

"It's more fun. It's fast moving, which is always great if you're bringing kids to the theatre at seven o'clock at night."

Much of the cast, Atkinson found, saw last year's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* at the Shaw Festival, the acclaimed prequel to *Peter Pan* that relied on imagination more than lavish props and sets.

"Anything can be anything," she says. " Huge imagination and creativity. That's sort of the area we're playing in with this one. It's not just straight-up; we're trying to find a different and interesting way to tell the story."

"It's almost like if you got trapped in your grandmother's attic for the day, and you and your friends put on a story."

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